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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **Hisatoshi HIROTA**

Group Art Unit: **3744**

Serial No.: **10/658,551**

Examiner: **William E. Tapolcai**

Filed: **September 10, 2003**

Confirmation No.: **3273**

For: **SOLENOID VALVE-EQUIPPED EXPANSION VALVE**

Attorney Docket Number: **031074**

Customer Number: **38834**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(1)/(e)(1)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: April 22, 2005

Sir:

Applicant directs the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08. A copy of each non-U.S. document is attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being submitted after issuance of a first official action on the merits and expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry of the national stage for the above-captioned application, but prior to issuance of either a final official action or a Notice of Allowance.

The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in the IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the IDS. A copy of the foreign communication citing the documents is attached.

Information Disclosure Statement under 1.97(c)(1)

Attorney Docket No. 031074

Serial No. 10/658,551

Each listed document was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office and the communication was not received by any person defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than 30 days before filing of this paper.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: PTO/SB/08  
Document(s)  
Foreign Communication

Combined Form PTO/SB/08A&B		Complete if Known	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> (use as many sheets as necessary)		Application Number	10/658,551
		Confirmation Number	3273
		Filing Date	September 10, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Hisatoshi HIROTA et al.
		Art Unit	3744
		Examiner Name	William E. Tapolcai
Sheet 1 of 1		Attorney Docket Number	031074

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
		US 6,375,085	B1	4/23/2002	Martin et al.
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
		JP	10 274453	A	10/13/1998	TGK CO., LTD	Abstract
		JP	11 304298	A	11/5/1999	TGK CO., LTD	Abstract

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>6</sup>

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.